

gate Stern pointed out, the history is these bond issues are passed almost as a matter of course by the legislature so that the three-fifths would be no protection. I predict if this amendment passes all our bonds from here on will be for 25 years. Not only because of the fact it imposes a smaller annual charge but because these bonds being tax exempt are very popular with the investors and the longer the better. That is the reason the bankers and the investment brokers favor the longer term. They will undoubtedly put pressure on the Legislature to give them what they want.

I think this has been a great salvation and a wonderful thing for the taxpayers of Maryland. To extend it to 25 years would be a great mistake, in my humble opinion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Stern.

DELEGATE STERN: How much time remains?

THE CHAIRMAN: Two minutes.

DELEGATE STERN: I will take those.

I would like to answer some of the statements made by the majority. The majority has told you here exactly what I said would happen at the legislature that the debt limit would rise. The people like Dr. Willis who come with school programs, Prince George's County, Montgomery County will come with school programs and that the first bond issue would have to be increased to cover these programs and we will raise our debts. Our debt ceiling will reach a point that although schools will be built long after Dr. Willis leaves the county the following students will not have the school to go to because we will not be able to borrow at an economical rate, our rating will go down, that the interest cost on 25 years will be prohibitive in and of itself, that like Judge Henderson has said certainly the investors want 25 years. We have been told 25 years offers highest interest rates. Certainly they would prefer to buy bonds at a higher interest rate. We have had no trouble, no trouble on our bonds at 15 years at a lower interest rate.

Delegate Case tells us over the years it is probably cheaper. He is absolutely right. I worked it out. Three bond issues 25 years 75, 15 bond issues, 15 years, 75 years, interest between the two 25-year bond issues is \$4,585 less using the rate on the chart but the difference is that we have used \$5 million in that 75-year period instead of \$3 million for the same long period of time.

I urge you to vote for this amendment, keep the limitation we have had. In the

words of Judge Sherbow, do you want to make a change or do you want to keep what we have?

THE CHAIRMAN: There is now available a period of uncontrolled debate. In view of the very complete presentation by both the majority and the minority the Chair would hope this would be kept to a minimum. Are you ready for the question?

(Call for the question.)

The question arises on Amendment No. 1.

The Clerk will ring the quorum bell.

The question arises on Amendment No. 1, a vote Aye is a vote in favor of the amendment. A vote No is a vote against the amendment.

Cast your votes.

Has every delegate voted? Does any delegate desire to change his vote?

(There was no response.)

The Clerk will record the vote.

There being 44 votes in the affirmative and 61 in the negative, the motion is lost. The amendment is rejected. There is one other amendment of which the Chair has knowledge or two other amendments with respect to this section.

Delegate Mentzer, do you still desire to offer your Amendment C?

DELEGATE MENTZER: I would rather offer it tomorrow morning.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let the Chair ask you this: How long do you think it would take for the presentation of your amendment? You are entitled to 10 minutes, would you take that long?

DELEGATE MENTZER: No, I am sure it would not take more than five.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Grumbacher, do you still desire to offer your Amendment B?

DELEGATE GRUMBACHER: Yes, I would like to.

My amendment will not take time. It is the reconsideration that takes all the time with mine. *(Laughter.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair would like to dispose of this. If you feel very strongly, Delegate Mentzer, you would rather present your amendment tomorrow. Very well, thank you.